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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products December 2013

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (2.3 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary November totals of \$2.2 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in oil country goods and blooms, billets and slabs. Increases occurred primarily in hot rolled sheets and hot rolled bars. Decreases occurred primarily with Russia, Japan, and Canada. Increases occurred primarily with Brazil, Korea, and Mexico.

The year to date final statistics through November 2013 showed steel imports of 26.9 million metric tons compared with 28.1 million metric tons through November 2012. The largest commodity decreases occurred primarily in plates cut lengths, oil country goods, and plates in coils. Increases occurred primarily in hot rolled bars, reinforcing bars, and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases occurred primarily with Russia and Canada. Increases occurred primarily with Mexico.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is February 26, 2014.